



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The United States District Court Unveils Kid's Court

Charlotte, North Carolina, September 17, 2008 – On Constitution Day, the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina is launching [Kid's Court](http://www.ncwd.uscourts.gov/kidscourt), a web site developed to teach students about the judiciary and to encourage them to put their learning into action. From participating in mock trials to watching "K-Court TV," [Kid's Court](http://www.ncwd.uscourts.gov/kidscourt) offers youngsters a variety of ways to learn about leadership, problem-solving, and how our government works.

Chief Judge Robert J. Conrad, Jr., believes each generation must learn about our system of government and the citizen's role in the courts. "Our justice system is the finest in the world partly because engaged citizens are willing to serve as jurors. In our effort to maintain excellence, we depend on an educated citizenry. For this reason, [Kid's Court](http://www.ncwd.uscourts.gov/kidscourt) is designed to connect with students to inform and inspire future leaders who will help guide our Courts into the 21st century."

Students can run mock trials, sing at Naturalization Ceremonies, and lead the Pledge of Allegiance to a group of new United States Citizens. Even for those who live in the more remote areas of the Western District of North Carolina, [Kid's Court](http://www.ncwd.uscourts.gov/kidscourt) can provide a personal hands-on opportunity to learn about the federal court system. Students can join Judge Gavel and his friend Scales to find out the difference between a federal and state court case, learn the meaning of words used in the courtroom, play the Double Jeopardy game, and submit artwork they created about the judiciary.

Whether [Kid's Court](http://www.ncwd.uscourts.gov/kidscourt) is being used in an educational venue or from a home computer, the web site is being piloted to involve all communities throughout the Western District of North Carolina. It is the goal of [Kid's Court](http://www.ncwd.uscourts.gov/kidscourt) to maximize the opportunities for civic learning for all adolescents, and to highlight the importance of their civic duties and responsibilities. By educating the younger generation in a manner that emphasizes participation, [Kid's Court](http://www.ncwd.uscourts.gov/kidscourt) hopes that students learn that involvement can create positive outcomes for not only the judicial system, but for this country as well.

For more information on [Kid's Court](http://www.ncwd.uscourts.gov/kidscourt), visit <http://www.ncwd.uscourts.gov/kidscourt>

About Kid's Court – [Kid's Court](http://www.ncwd.uscourts.gov/kidscourt) is a development of the United States District Court Western District of North Carolina, which is a trial court that has jurisdiction to hear federal cases, including both civil and criminal matters. Courthouses are located in Asheville, Bryson City, Charlotte and the Statesville divisions, which covers 32 counties. These counties include: Alleghany, Alexander, Anson, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Union, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey counties. For more information on the United States District for the Western District of North Carolina, or for a copy of this press release, visit <http://www.ncwd.uscourts.gov>

###

Contact:

United States District Court, Western District of North Carolina
Jeanie Koechley, Training & Special Events Coordinator
704-350-7405
kidscourt@ncwd.uscourts.gov